

Remarks

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) "because they fail to show how the trigger rotates in the aperture by means of the ram and how the ram interacts with the cable trigger. Applicant encloses a new Figure 4 which shows how spring 23 pushes ram 24 against the flat side 32 of trigger 18 so that when trigger 18 is released, trigger 18 will rotate clockwise until flat side 32 faces ram 24, thereby allowing ram 24 to move past flat side 32. The further movement of the ram results in the ram striking the cable trigger.

The drawings were further objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). Applicant encloses a new Figure 7, which illustrates how the plunger pierces the seal of the cylinder. The "microswitch or a cable that is activated by said ram is attached at each end of said chamber" is described in paragraph [0012], lines 10 to 14, paragraph 17, lines 10 to 12, and paragraph [0017], lines 1 to 6, and is shown in Figures 1 and 6. The cited paragraphs in the specification make it clear that either a microswitch or a cable may be activated by the ram and it is not necessary for Applicant to submit four drawings that show every combination of microswitch and cable (i.e., cable-cable, cable-microswitch, microswitch-cable, and microswitch-microswitch).

Claims 1 to 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. A new Figure 4 is submitted which clarifies how "the trigger is rotated by force of the ram." Paragraph [0016], lines 1 to 8, explains in detail how this is done.

The ram interacts with the cable trigger by striking it. This was shown on the

Figure 2 that was submitted with the application, but was not as clear on the revised Figure 2. Applicant herewith submits a new Figure 2 that, like the original Figure 2, shows how the ram strikes the cable trigger. The Examiner is also referred to paragraph [0016], lines 10 to 12, of the specification.

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claim 16 has been amended by deleting the language "and removing portions thereof." That phrase referred to processes such as drilling, machining and threading. See paragraph [0014], lines 5 to 9.

Claims 1 to 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 14, 15, 18, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as anticipated by Mikulec '572. The Examiner asserts that Mikulec '572 "discloses a fire extinguishing actuator having: -an elongate body made of single piece. See Figure 3." Applicant does not agree. Figure 3 in Mikulec '572 shows that the body of the actuator is made of at least three pieces. The patent identifies two distinct pieces, header 26 and casing 120, but Figure 3 clearly shows that header 26 comprises two tubes, one inside the other. Note that the hatch marks on the inside tube slant to the left while the hatch marks on the outside tube slant to the right. Thus, there are at least three pieces, namely casing 120 and the two tubes that comprise header 26.

As Applicant explained in paragraph [0002] of his specification, various parts "are attached to the tubes. Several of those parts were attached by welding them to the tubes. Misalignments sometimes occurred, resulting in defective actuators that had to be discarded." Note in Figure 3 of Mikulec '572 that casing 120 is attached to one of

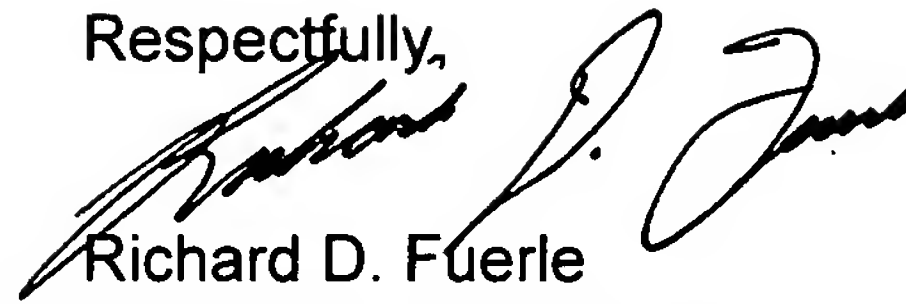
the tubes by means of screw 122 (see column 4, lines 23 and 24 of Mikulec '572). By using a body for the actuator that is a single piece, which is much thicker than the tubes used in Mikulec '572, then "drilling, machining, and threading" (paragraph [0014, lines 8 and 9) that single piece, Applicant was able to eliminate the necessity of attaching various other parts to the tubes. Since the "drilling, machining, and threading" could be performed much more precisely than welding and screwing a casing onto a tube, Applicant was able to overcome the problem of misalignment of attached parts, which resulting in discarding defective actuators. There is nothing in Milkulec '572 that discloses or suggests that the actuator could be made from a single piece or that it might be desirable to make it from a single piece, nor is there any suggestion as to how it might be possible to make it out of a single piece.

Claims 10 to 13, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Mikulec '572. Applicant's comments as to the preceding rejection apply as well to this rejection.

Claim 7 was indicated as being allowable.

As all of the rejections are now believed to be overcome, reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims is requested. Should the Examiner have any remaining issues, he is invited to call Applicant's attorney at 716-774-0091 to discuss and hopefully resolve them.

Respectfully,



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